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MINEWATCH

Last February, this community celebrated as the Nevada County Board of Supervisors resoundingly said "NO!" to the proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. But Rise Gold hasn't given up yet. They are actively pursuing lawsuits to overturn the Board's decisions.

For CEA Foundation and the MineWatch campaign, that means the job isn't done yet – and we are asking for your continued support. Donations of any amount are appreciated.

Our law firm, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP, is preparing an amicus ("friend of the court") brief to assist the County with the lawsuits that will likely get scheduled after January 2025. We are also working to address the ongoing legacy Idaho-Maryland Mine pollution problems to make sure that Rise Gold is held accountable for their toxic properties.

New Legal Action Against Rise Gold to Stop Mine Drain Pollution

Did you know that Rise Gold's property is leaking contaminated water in clear violation of the Clean Water Act?

Throughout the review processes for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the MineWatch team repeatedly identified the failure of the EIR to correctly

address the contaminated water flowing out of the mine directly into Wolf Creek. Even if the mine proposal had been approved, there were no plans to address the effluent after the mine's closure.

Currently, the Idaho-Maryland Mine discharges contaminated water from several mine drain points directly into the main branch of Wolf Creek, including the Eureka Drain and the East Eureka Drain shown in the image below. The heavy metals levels reported in the EIR and in 2019 EPA test findings both show that the mine effluent exceeds safe values of Arsenic, Lead, Manganese, Barium, and others, in clear violation of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Communications with the State Regional Water Board have yielded little progress, so CEA Foundation has taken initial steps to bring a "citizen lawsuit" against Rise Gold (dba subsidiary Rise Grass Valley) under the Clean Water Act in order to make it address the contamination problem. The goal is to compel Rise to apply for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which would likely require a perpetual water treatment facility along Wolf Creek, similar to the one at the Empire State Park Mine.

The law requires that we first notify Rise of the violation and of our intent to sue, which has been done. The [letter of intent](#) gives Rise 60 days to respond before the lawsuit is filed in the US District Court in Sacramento.



State Terminates Centennial Cleanup Agreement Due to Non-Payment

Did you know that in 2019, Rise sidestepped an EPA Super-fund Designation at the Centennial site by committing to clean up the site under a voluntary

agreement? But now they haven't paid their bills, so the state is terminating that agreement.

The "Voluntary Agreement" (VA) contract between Rise and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to clean up the toxic mine tailings on the 56 acre Centennial site in Grass Valley is being terminated by the DTSC due to non-payment of \$94,566.40 in delinquent project administration fees and a failure to take actions to continue the project. (See [DTSC Letter To Rise Gold](#))

A draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was first prepared in 2020 describing how the site would be cleaned up. The RAP assumed that the site would be used for dumping mine waste over most of the 56 acres, impacting wetlands and mixed woodlands. CEA Foundation and other parties commented on the RAP, citing issues regarding unnecessary impacts on wetlands and other concerns. No further progress has been made on the RAP since Jan 2021.

In February of 2024, the Idaho-Maryland Mine Use Permit application and EIR were denied by the Board of Supervisors, eliminating the planned usage of the site for mine waste dumping. As a result, the RAP now requires additional revisions to reflect a different end use. Rise, however, has not paid DTSC for past work done, nor responded to DTSC's requests to reaffirm its plans to complete the RAP. Now, the deadline to avoid cancellation of the Voluntary Agreement by the DTSC has passed.

How You Can Help

We need your support! It was our strong community response, the sound science, and the high-quality legal analyses which paved the way for the County to deny the Use Permit. CEA continues to work to defend this hard won decision in the legal domain. We feel we have a solid strategy to defeat Rise Gold's legal attacks and end the threat that this mine poses to our community. While there currently isn't much room for public participation, our efforts continue and we are incurring significant legal costs. Please consider making a donation at this time. We can't fight to stop Rise Gold without you. Please [donate now](#). Your support is greatly appreciated!

Support CEA Foundation

Please donate today!

Thank you.

[Donate online](#) or send a check to:

CEA Foundation
PO Box 972
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Mine related inquiries may be directed to MineConcerns@cea-nc.org

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